

22. CLUTCH SIZE IN SHAW'S WOLF SNAKE *LYCODON STRIATUS*

On the morning of 27 July, 1993, I bagged a 410 mm long Shaw's wolf snake *Lycodon striatus* from deciduous forests of Kamalnath Forest Block in Udaipur District. I kept the snake in a card board box of dimension 45 x 30 x 30 cm. On the morning of 29 July, 1993 I found one white, elliptical egg in the box which measured about 25 x 7 mm. Obviously it had been laid in the night of 28 July, 1993. After this, no more eggs were laid by the snake

and I set it free on 5 August, 1993 in the locality of capture.

According to Daniel (1983, THE BOOK OF INDIAN REPTILE), 2 to 4 eggs are laid by Shaw's Wolf Snake.

August 31, 1994 SATISH KUMAR SHARMA
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23. LENGTH RECORD OF THE COMMON WOLF SNAKE (*LYCODON AULICUS*)
FROM BHARUCH, GUJARAT

On February 4, 1993, we received a snake from Mr. R. Tiruvengadam, Officer-in-Charge, GNFC's Wildlife Complex, Bharuch.

It was a female common wolf snake, *Lycodon aulicus* (Linnaeus). It was collected from GNFC township, Bharuch, Dist. Bharuch. The snout to vent length was 81.0 cm, tail length 11.0 cm and total length of the specimen was 92.0 cm. Scales were supralabials 9, 4th and 5th touching the eye, midbody scales 17:17:15 rows, divided into ventrals 232 and caudals 51. Body colour was dark brown with 34 white bands which are laterally bifurcated and the belly white.

According to Whitaker (1978, COMMON INDIAN SNAKES: A FIELD GUIDE), the maximum length of the species was

80.0 cm and recently Karthikeyan (1993, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 90: 298-299) reported an even larger specimen that measured 82.0 cm from the Shevaroyes. Hence our specimen is the largest known so far.

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24. AMPHIBIANS OF PHULWARI KI NAL WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The Aravalli range is the principal mountain range of Rajasthan which runs diagonally across the state from north-east near Delhi and to south-west up to the plains of Gujarat for about 692 km. Within Rajasthan, it runs for about 550 km. from Khetri in the north-east to Khed-Brahma in the south-west. The Phulwari Ki Nal Wildlife Sanctuary is a small area, covering 511.4 sq. km and situated towards the south-west end of the Aravallis near Khed-Brahma in Udaipur district of Rajasthan.

Phulwari Ki Nal Wildlife Sanctuary falls in a semi-arid zone, with a rainfall of 600-800 mm per annum. The terrain is undulating with altitudinal variation from 600-900 m above MSL. The forests are of the northern tropical dry deciduous type. Major plant species of the area are *Dendrocalamus strictus*, *Boswellia serrata*, *Lannea coromandelica*, *Sterculia urens*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Wrightia tomentosa*, *W. tinctoria*, *Terminalia belerica*, *Flacourtia ramontchi*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Helicteres*

isora, *Grewia tiliaefolia*, *Aegle marmelos*, *Soymida febrifuga*, *Celestrus paniculata*, *Zizyphus xylopara*, *Anangium salvifolium*, *Butea monosperma*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Ougenia dalbergioides*, *Pongamia pinnata*, *Syzygium heyneanum*, *Emblica officinalis*, etc.

A list of amphibians recorded from Phulwari Ki Nal Wildlife Sanctuary is given below:

Family: RANIDAE

(1) **Rana cyanophlyctis**: Very common, seen in ditches mine-pits, nullahs, rivers, ponds, wells, forest nursery tanks, etc. During the rainy season, it can be seen on roads at nights. It is found round the year, except during the winter. The Kathodis, a local tribe, use these frogs as bait for fishing purpose.

(2) **Rana limnocharis**: Very common, seen in damp places with grassy cover. From September onwards, when water level of hill nullahs become low, these frogs

can be seen among boulders of streams. This frog is generally visible from July to October only.

(3) **Rana tigerina**: Common, locally called *dhedka* by the tribals, lives in ditches along the road side, hill streams and in the stagnant water of the paddy field bordering the sanctuary. It is visible in paddy fields at the time of sowing of paddy. When paddy becomes tall, it remains hidden under vegetative cover.

(4) **Tomopterna breviceps**: Very common, appears on the ground with the pre-monsoon showers, and retires for hibernation in winter. During earlier monsoon showers it can be seen in ditches, pits, etc., generally at night and before noon. After egg-laying, it becomes terrestrial like a toad. It falls in forest nursery-tanks during night and dozens can be seen swimming sluggishly in water. If water level is low in the tank due to vertical walls, they cannot escape (Sharma 1993). In their effort to climb rough walls, they injure the fingers and toes. Sometimes, a few are seen floating dead in water tanks.

During the rains, males of this species become vocal. Their calls can be heard all night till the morning.

From September onwards, one can come across. *T. breviceps* in large numbers while moving in dry nullahs. This frog goes into burrows when winter starts.

Family: MICROHYLIDAE

(5) **Microhyla ornata**: Uncommon, and terrestrial, lives in damp, covered hide-out. It leaves the ponds, ditches, etc. during the day and comes out only during the night for feeding and breeding. In cemented tanks, where escape is not possible, it can be seen climbing walls above the water level. This species remains visible during the monsoon period only.

(6) **Uperodon systoma**: Uncommon, becomes visible in monsoon only. Two males and one female were collected from a small cemented tank near Nalwa Wildlife Chowki. A pair was bagged on the periphery of the Sanctuary. The weight of the male was 14 g and that of the female 26 g. They were kept in a tank, where the female laid 1784 eggs in one night. After egg laying, the female was re-weighed and found to be 22 g. Males of this species are vocal and make loud calls in the early hours of the morning. Males call while swimming to and from their burrows. During the day frogs of this species vacate the pond. This species remains visible only during the monsoon rains.

Family: BUFONIDAE

(7) **Bufo melanostictus**: Common Seven species of amphibians contained in five genera belonging to three families have been recorded from Phulwari Ki Nal Wildlife Sanctuary. So far six species of amphibians are known from the region of Udaipur district, namely *Rana cyanoptlyctis*, *R. linuocharis*, *R. tigerina*, *Tomopterna breviceps*, *Bufo melanostictus* and *B. andersoni* (Mansukhani and Murthy 1964). Two species are being recorded for the first time from Udaipur district, namely *Microhyla ornata* and *Uperodon systoma*.

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25. *LABEO MICROPTHALMUS* (DAY) (PISCES: CYPRINIDAE), A NEW RECORD FROM BIHAR, INDIA

INTRODUCTION

During the course of ichthyofaunal survey of the river Gandak at Balmikinagar, Bihar (27° N, 84° 15' E), a specimen of *Labeo* was collected along with other fishes, which, after examination was identified as *Labeo microphthalmus* (Day). The identification of this specimen has been confirmed by the Zoological Survey

of India, Calcutta. A perusal of existing Indian literature on the ichthyofauna (Day 1878, 1889; Jayaram 1981, Jhingran 1956, Menon 1950, 1974; Munshi Datta and Srivastava 1988, McClelland 1839, Talwar and Jhingran 1991) reveal that *Labeo microphthalmus* (Day) has not been recorded earlier from Bihar. Hence the present collection and the distributional notes of this carp would